

## **Applying to Become a Nonimmigrant Student (overview)**

Several events must take place before a nonimmigrant student may attend school in the United States. The process involves the following:

- The prospective student applies to his chosen SEVP-certified school (By Enrollment Application)
- The school determines if the student fully meets its admission requirements and has the financial ability to pay for the education and living expenses
- If admission and financial requirements are met, the school creates an Initial SEVIS record and issues a Form I-20 for the student
- The school sends a copy of its Form I-20 to the student (signed by school official)
- The student pays the SEVIS I-901 fee. (See the SEVP Web site at [www.ice.gov/sevis](http://www.ice.gov/sevis) for a full list of questions and answers regarding the SEVIS I-901 fee.)
- The prospective student then applies to one of the following:
  - The local U.S. consulate or embassy for a visa (see the DOS Web site at [http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/types/types\\_1268.html](http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/types/types_1268.html) for more information on student visas and applications);

## **Student Responsibilities**

A student begins the process by applying to the SEVP-certified school through filling out and sending an enrollment form. Once accepted, the student is responsible for paying the SEVIS I-901 fee and then applying for a visa.

## **Applying to SEVP-Certified Schools**

A list of SEVP-certified schools is available on the SEVP Web site at [www.ice.gov/sevis](http://www.ice.gov/sevis).

### **Snohomish Flying Service is SEVP certified**

## **Paying the SEVIS I-901 Fee**

Prospective nonimmigrant students must pay the SEVIS I-901 fee prior to applying for a student visa. For detailed information on payment of the SEVIS I-901 fee, please see <http://www.fmjfee.com>.

Students can obtain proof of the SEVIS I-901 fee payment several ways:

- The receipt that can be printed after paying online at <http://www.fmjfee.com> with a credit card
- The receipt issued by Western Union when using the Western Union quickpay option to remit payment
- The Form I-797 receipt
- Through [fmjfee.com](http://fmjfee.com) (allow three business days for the interface with the DOS database to record the payment)

In most instances, a nonimmigrant student is required to pay the SEVIS I-901 fee only once.

## **Applying for a Student Visa**

Prospective nonimmigrant students outside of the United States, who are not visa exempt, must apply to their local U.S. consulate or embassy for an M-1 visa.

Each U.S. embassy and consulate has a Web site linked to <http://usembassy.state.gov/>. This Web site will have information on how to apply for a student visa and how to make an interview appointment.

A student must bring several items to the interview:

- A signed Form I-20 issued by the school the student plans to attend
- A completed application Form DS-156, together with a Form DS-158. Both forms must be completed and signed.

Some applicants will also be required to complete and sign Form DS-157.

- A passport valid for at least six months after the proposed date of entry into the United States
- One (1) 2"x2" photograph
- A fee receipt to show payment of the visa application fee, a visa issuance fee if applicable and a separate SEVIS I-901 fee receipt.

Because each prospective student's personal and academic situation differs, consular officials may ask applicants, applying for the same type of visa, for different documents. For that reason, the guidelines that follow are general and may differ based on the applicant.

All applicants should be prepared to provide:

- Transcripts and diplomas from previous institutions attended;
- Scores from standardized tests required by the educational institution such as the TOEFL, TOEIC, etc.;
- Financial evidence showing that the prospective student or sponsor has sufficient funds to cover tuition and living expenses during the period of intended study.

For example:

- If the student or sponsor is a salaried employee, the applicant should bring income tax documents and original bank records and/or statements.